

Resolved, That (a) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for the adoption of H. Res. 421, recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary; I would have voted "aye" on adoption of H.J. Res. 40, Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009; and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 489, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the brutal suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square.

□ 1930

STOP SELLING AMERICA TO CHINA

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. On the last resolution, I heard earlier tonight my friend from California (Mr. BERMAN) who has a heart for those who suffer around this world, and I certainly acknowledge that.

In support of the resolution of remembering the devastation in Tiananmen Square, he asked a question about how China could rightfully take a place among the superpowers, or among the world powers, when there is so much left unresolved about Tiananmen Square. Who was shot? Who was killed? I have an answer. They're buying America. We're going into debt bigger and bigger every day, and they're buying us, so they can kind of do what they want as long as they're

buying America. The answer that it started with Bush is not a good answer because, yes, it did. So stop already. We were promised change. Let's change. Let's stop running up debt, and let's stop selling this country to China.

STANDING ALONGSIDE PAKISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the world have been watching the terrible conflict in Pakistan. They have watched the Pakistani military attempt to free certain areas of terrorist interests that would undermine the peace and security of that nation.

I would hope that we would all support the idea of peace and security. I believe in peace over conflict. I actually am appalled at the level of violence, but we must support the people of Pakistan and its military, which has risen to the occasion to fight against those who would undermine the civilian government. We can't have it both ways, and they are not doing this at the behest of the United States Government but for their own people.

We must also join in the humanitarian aid to give to those 2.5 million people who are now being evacuated. We must be prayerful about the young people who were abducted, and we must praise again the Pakistani military, which itself has lost lives. We now need to stand alongside this country and not forsake it and stand for its democracy and its security.

THE CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to bring attention to the Congressional Rural Caucus, of which I have the privilege of being vice Chair, along with my colleague from across the aisle, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. The caucus is being led by co-Chairs Mr. CHILDERS of Mississippi and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, whom I commend for their bipartisan spirit and for their ability to reach across this so-often divided aisle in order to push for the betterment of rural issues—our rural values and our rural way of life.

The Rural Caucus has re-formed and is alive and well. Together, we will focus on issues of telecom, education and workforce development, transportation, and health care.

In January, the Congressional Rural Caucus penned a letter to the President asking him to form an Office of Rural Policy to complement the recently created Office of Urban Policy. Today, I echo that call, and I encourage the administration to make a commitment to create communities of choice, not of

destiny, where no one should ever be at a disadvantage because of where one is born or chooses to live.

MEDIA SHOULD NOT ALLOW VOTING TO INFLUENCE REPORTING

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the recent White House Correspondents' Dinner, President Obama joked to the reporters in attendance: "Most of you covered me. All of you voted for me."

Some jokes are true; and, unfortunately, this joke is on the American people.

According to Investor's Business Daily, journalists who gave campaign money to then-Senator Obama outnumbered those who contributed to Senator MCCAIN by a 20-1 margin. The media gave money to him. They voted for him. Now they're giving him a free pass.

According to one analysis, network newscasts have portrayed the President as a deficit fighter five times more often than they have portrayed him as a big spender even though his budget will double the national debt in 5 years and will triple it in 10.

Yes, the media voted for President Obama, but they should not allow their voting to influence their reporting.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Recently, Mr. Speaker, I met with a distinguished group of Pakistani Americans whom I proudly represent in the Seventh Congressional District of Maryland. I listened to their perspectives regarding the current situation in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to share their concerns, and I urge each of you to recognize the complex emergency that is taking place in Pakistan. The situation requires our immediate attention and assistance.

As you should be aware, more than 3 million people have been displaced from the Swat Valley area of Pakistan since early April 2009. At a rate of approximately 85,000 people fleeing per day, the unfolding internal displacement crisis in Pakistan is the fastest movement of people in such massive numbers since the Rwandan genocide